

WIGAN ATHLETIC



Saturday, 26th April, 1980 — Kick-off 3.00 p.m.
FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR
WIGAN ATHLETIC
- v -
WALSALL
Today's match is sponsored
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Official Programme

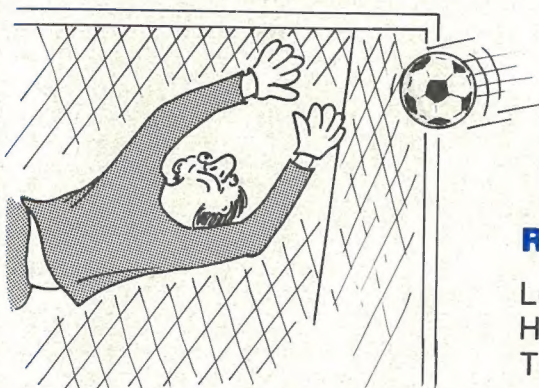
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Club Directory

WIGAN ATHLETIC
ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL
CLUB LTD.

REGISTERED OFFICE:
SPRINGFIELD PARK, WIGAN.
Telephone Wigan 44433.

CHAIRMAN:
Mr. A.O. Horrocks.
VICE-CHAIRMAN:
Mr. A. Muir.

DIRECTORS:
Messrs. J.H. Farrimond,
A. Eckersley, G.D. Gorner,
B. Connolly, F. Pye,
R. Charlton C.B.E.

TEAM MANAGER:
Mr. I.M. McNeill.

COMMERCIAL MANAGER:
Mr. J.T. Sudworth.

HON. MEDICAL OFFICERS:
Dr. G. Menon, Dr. S.K. Ahuja,
and Dr. J. Coffey.

Match Ball Donors

The Wigan Athletic Football Club wishes to thank all those who have donated match balls. Any individual or organisation wishing to join the scheme is asked to contact the Commercial Manager, Springfield Park, Wigan. (Telephone: Wigan 43067)

Our front page picture this issue shows the fans choice as "Player of the Year" — Goalkeeper John Brown. (Photograph by courtesy of the Wigan Observer).

Personally Speaking

by Ian McNeill



Good Afternoon All.

A very big welcome to Alan Buckley and his Walsall side to whom we offer our congratulations on their very quick return to Third Division Football. No doubt they will be looking forward to two points today to clinch the championship, but I equally feel we want to win this game, if only to prove we are

basically good enough for Third Division football. Walsall are one of only two clubs (the other being Newport County) who have amassed more points than us in the last six months.

Sad Day

Last Thursday morning was a very sad day for me as it was the time when I had officially to tell players they were no longer required for service with the Wigan Athletic Football Club. I found this very difficult, as it was completely different from freeing non-league part-time players. This, after all, was their livelihood, and most had given up good steady jobs to go full-time for less money just two short years previously. It is very hard to suddenly find out you are no longer in full-time employment. All I can do is once again thank each of them for their services to our club, and trust fortune smiles on them in their future lives. My only comforting word could possibly be that some famous players of the past have at one time or another received free transfers and gone on to a bright new career elsewhere.

Enjoy today's game.

Ian McNeill

WELCOME TO



WALSALL FOOTBALL CLUB 1979/80 — (Left to Right) **Back Row:** Jimmy Williams, Ian Paul, Dave Syrett, Ian Turner, Ron Green, Roy McDonough, Ricky Sbragia, Colin Harrison. **Front Row:** Tony Macken, Alan Buckley (Manager), Dave Serella, Steve Waddington, Jeff King (no longer with the club), Brian Caswell, Jimmy Kelly.



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WALSALL FOOTBALL CLUB

WE ARE indeed privileged today to welcome to Springfield Park, the Walsall Football Club, its directors, staff and supporters. After the disappointment of last year's relegation year, "The Saddlers" have responded in the best possible way by bouncing straight back again into the Third Division, and, should fortune favour the Midlands Club, not only will promotion be achieved, but also the added glory of the Fourth Division Championship. Consistent performers over the full season, Walsall have only been defeated three times in forty-four league fixtures, and under the shrewd guiding hand of Alan Buckley have tackled each game in a thoroughly professional way. The foundations have been well and truly laid for the far from easy task which lies ahead — consolidation at Third Division level. A good balance has been struck between tight defensive work and controlled aggression in attack, allowing a sustained promotion-seeking effort to be maintained throughout a long season. The discipline, method and character of the Walsall side over the past season cannot be faulted.

For player-manager, Alan Buckley, in particular, this year's success is well-merited. Having served the club well and having scored twenty goals in five successive seasons at Third Division level, Alan moved on to Birmingham City in September, 1978. Just prior to his departure for St. Andrew's, Walsall had missed promotion to the Second Division by three points, yet within the space of eight months, Walsall were relegated to the Fourth Division in May, 1979. One year later, with Buckley at the helm, the Fellows Park Club is on its way back to the Third Division. His presence has obviously done a great deal for the club. Alan is still notching the goals and he must rank alongside those three Walsall stalwarts of former years — Alsop, Richards and Taylor.

First elected to the Football League's

Second Division in 1892, Walsall played their first ever league game at home to Darwen, but lost 1 - 2. After spells in and out of the league in their early days, the club became founder-members of the Third Division (North), and, because of its geographical location, the club was constantly being switched between the old Northern and Southern Sections until the Football League eventually reorganised to give a Third and Fourth Division. Apart from the current season in the Fourth Division, and two seasons in the Second Division (1961-1963), "The Saddlers" have spent the last twenty years at Third Division level. During that period, the professionalism of the management and a succession of very able teams established Walsall as one of the Third Division's leading clubs. At all times controlled quietly and effectively by the Board of Directors, Fellows Park witnessed some very exciting games, and successful runs in both the Football League and F.A. Cup competitions added to the years' enjoyment. There is little doubt that Walsall's pedigree is such that an over-lengthy stay in the Fourth Division would have been most unacceptable to directors, management, staff and supporters alike.

Welcome then to today's visitors from Walsall. We regret that, for at least twelve months, we cannot renew our rivalry in the league competition, but we look forward to the future when we may be fortunate enough to join you in the Third Division. Meanwhile, all our sincere best wishes for as happy a 1980-1981 Season as you have enjoyed this season. We trust that, after today's game, the memories you take away will be of a well-fought game, good hospitality and friendship through football. May your journey home tonight be trouble-free and the end of the season a temporary respite from the rigours of a long and rewarding twelve months work.

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Commercial Chatter

AS THE end of yet another season fast approaches, it would be inappropriate if we were not to address a vote of thanks to all who have assisted our cause during the past season. I would like to place on record the Wigan Athletic Football Club's gratitude to those business concerns and individuals who have involved themselves with any type of advertising, sponsorship or donations on the club's behalf. To the spectators, we owe a great deal of gratitude for not only have they paid their admission charges week in and week out, but they have also purchased programmes, souvenirs, lottery tickets and the like throughout the season. To printers, newspapers, contractors and a whole host of representatives, we acknowledge the value of your particular skill or expertise which has helped make our year full and rewarding. In short, to all who have helped, a sincere vote of thanks and we look forward to your continued support in the future.

The season is not yet over, but we have already taken the first preparatory steps for next time around. Our revised rub-off lottery ticket — "The Springfield Rose" — will be on sale within the next three weeks. At twenty pence, with an up-dated and more stimulating prize structure, we are convinced that the ticket will be the best buy in the district. If there is no game to watch, why not

invest in a ticket or two during the close season, or, better still, why not become an agent? Advertising, and sponsorships are already being worked upon and it is suggested that you keep your eye on the local press to read of developments as they occur.

We are pleased to acknowledge the sponsoring of today's game by Stuart Edgar Ltd., of Etherstone Mill, Lilford Street, Leigh, WN7 4JN, (Telephone number Leigh 676131). Manufacturers of disposable products, we are most grateful to the firm, and to the Managing Director, Mr. Brian Sutcliffe, in particular, for repeating last year's sponsorship. We are sure that today's game will be worthy of their generous gesture.

We are also delighted to record our appreciation of the kind donation of today's match ball by a group of supporters who are also members of Dean Wood Golf Club — Thanks are due to Ken Gibson, Jack Jones, Mick Jordan, John Leatherbarrow, Alan McMinn, Tom O'Neill, Joe Sweeney and Tony Wright.

Once again, many thanks to all who have helped the cause. May the close season be even shorter than usual and may 1980-1981 bring even greater joy to our club.

Enjoy today's game.

Jack Sudworth (Commercial Manager)

Income Tax Consultant, 70 Springfield Road, Wigan, Lancs., WN6 7BB
(see also our Business Consultants advertisement)

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Lancashire League Scene

by Fred Eyre

THE RAPID elevation to first team status of young Mick Quinn last week, was not only a boost for the lad himself, but also for all the other young players at the club.

It proved that a first team chance is available for everybody, no matter how young, provided he is good enough. There are other young players in the reserve team only a whisker away from getting their chance, and, when it comes, hopefully they will take it with both hands the same way as "Quinn Minor" did on his debut. Mike's goal eventually turned out to be a simple "tap in" but only after he had forced the defender and goalkeeper into an error, so he really created the chance for himself.

In the meantime Derek Brownbill, who was the player to step down to give him his chance, was responding in the thoroughly professional manner expected from him by spearheading us

to a good 2 - 0 victory at Burnley by heading both our goals late in the second half.

The first was a picture goal following a swift run down the right by John Wilkie to the bye-line and a perfect right foot cross gave Derek the chance to head firmly high into the net.

The second goal followed a spectacular twenty-five yards drive by Tony Quinn. The ball hit the crossbar and Derek was again on hand to nod in the rebound.

This effort by "Quinn Major" was nice to see because he has lost a little confidence recently after his meteoric rise to fame in the first team and he is back with me for the time being to pick up his game again.

For Tony it is only a temporary lull, for he is too good a player to be down for long and shortly we could be seeing a Wigan Athletic forward line starring both the "Mighty Quinn's"

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Player Profile



IAN MCNEILL (Manager)

IAN MCNEILL was born in Glasgow and received his education in that soccer-mad city. Despite receiving offers from Everton and Wolves from south of the border, he joined Aberdeen as a schoolboy in 1950, and, during that period, he played five times for the Scottish Youth International XI, gaining the triple crown. In the 3-1 victory over England at Aberdeen, one of Ian's opponents was later to gain fame in another sport — Brian Close was the opponent.

After serving his time as a draughtsman with a local engineering firm, young McNeill's part-time, then full-time career with Aberdeen was interrupted by a spell of National Service in Kenya among the Mau Mau. His scoring debut against St. Mirren long past and first team appearances somewhat spasmodic, Ian asked for and was granted a transfer. Finally making the trip into England, the young player joined Leicester City for a fee of £5,000 in 1956, and, in his first season at Filbert Street, gained a Second Division medal as a member of the Leicester City side which gained promotion in Season 1956-1957.

First Division life got off to an exciting beginning with Ian scoring a hat-trick against Sunderland in the second game; by the end of the season, he was hailed as the "Filberts" saviour scoring the vital goal at St. Andrews, Birmingham, which kept Leicester City in the First Division. After two further years at this level, Ian was transferred in Season 1959/1960, to Brighton and Hove Albion for that club's then record fee of £10,000. Brighton at that time were in the Second Division, and Ian spent four happy years at The Goldstone Ground before ending his full-time playing career with Southend United in 1965-1966.

Leaving English League soccer was a wrench, but Ian became firstly player-coach to Ross County and later player-manager, during which time Ross County won the Highland League Championship for the first time in their history. Ian McNeill then applied for and was appointed as Manager by ambitious Wigan Athletic for their first season in the Northern Premier League. His new club, with several newly-recruited players of quality, finished a very creditable second in the league table. In spite of promising performances in the F.A. Cup and the pre-Christmas league programme, things suddenly went sour at Springfield Park, and, after a brief laying bare of conflicting opinions in public, Ian McNeill was dismissed.

After spells with Salisbury Town in the Southern League and Ross County for a second term in which the Highland League side won the Scottish Qualifying Cup Final, Ian McNeill buried his pride and rejoined Wigan Athletic in 1976. It was, however, a different Wigan Athletic to the one which Ian McNeill had previously known. Money was tight, interest in Northern Premier League Football was on the wane, and a major miracle was needed to revitalise soccer in Wigan.

What was to follow is recent history, with Ian McNeill's team going from strength to strength, gaining F.A. Cup glory at Birmingham, second place in the Northern Premier League plus that league's nomination for consideration as potential Football League members, two excellent early seasons in the Football League and another money-spinning F.A. Cup run. At the centre of the action has been Ian McNeill.

Enthusiastic, aggressive, optimistic, yet loyal, good-humoured and considerate, Ian McNeill has often held his ground at times when it would have been easier to give way. The Wigan Athletic Football Club has been very fortunate to twice have the privilege of the canny Scot's undoubted managerial expertise.

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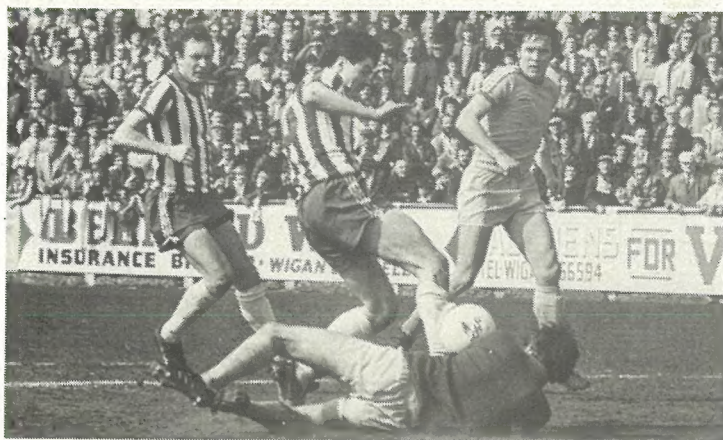
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TOP LEFT:
Young Quinn wins a tussle
for possession with Halifax
goalkeeper John Kilner.

BOTTOM LEFT:
With the goalkeeper beaten,
Mick stabs in his shot.

BOTTOM RIGHT:
His job done Mick turns
away from goal

TOP RIGHT:
Frank
and M
the de

Springfield Spotlight

MICK QUINN HAS ARRIVED

courtesy of the Wigan Observer.



RIGHT:
Corrigan, the crowd
Mick himself celebrate
about goal.



NEW AND REBUILT

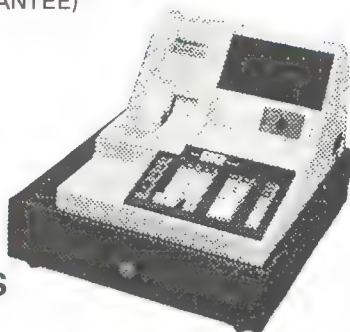
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Down Memory Lane

by Harold Ashurst

IN THEIR non-league days Latics could be relied upon to make an almost annual trek to the final of the Lancashire Junior Cup. In years gone by the Trophy was something worth winning and even though in later years its popularity declined, crowd-wise, it was always a nice piece of silver to have on the sideboard.

Latics appearances in the final during the 60's and 70's are too frequent to mention in detail, although they won on several occasions, they also had their fair share of defeats. One of the defeats took place on Wednesday, 25th April, 1962 at Deepdale, the home of Preston North End, when they came up against old rivals Morecambe.

The crowd of nearly 8,000 watched a classic cup tie as Morecambe, searching for their first Junior Cup success for a staggering thirty-five years, tore into the Athletic from the kick-off.

It was Latics' third Junior Cup final in five seasons and if the players thought that collecting the Trophy yet again was going to be a formality then they were sadly mistaken.

Fawcett gave Morecambe the lead with a penalty and then the same player scored again before Lambert pulled a goal back for Latics.

Borrowdale scored a third for the Shrimps which should have killed Latics stone dead but they kept battling right to the end and were denied further goals by the fine goalkeeping of Morecambe goalkeeper Udall.

The Junior Cup Final was often played at Preston during that period. It was a very popular competition, indeed, with crowds at the final consistently around the 10,000 mark, but recently there has not been the same interest. When this season's final was played, only last week at Springfield Park, the two teams involved, South Liverpool and Chorley, attracted just over 1,000 spectators.

The team for the Lancashire Junior Cup Final, played between Morecambe and Wigan Athletic nearly twenty years ago were: Wigan: Jack Richardson, Houghton, Briars, Roper, Higgins, Connor, Arnold, Lambert, Higham, Scholfield, O'Loughlin. Morecambe: Udall, Cabbage, Joe Richardson, Dunn, Scott, Keen, Fawcett, Evans, Borrowdale, Fern, Howarth.

The referee was Mr. A. G. Webster from Maghull and the attendance was 7,854 (Gate Receipts £952).

LATICS AWAY

At Aldershot on Saturday, 3rd May, 1980. Kick-off 3.00 p.m. Having left the London area by the M3, leave the motorway at junction 4, then follow signs to Aldershot (A325). In 5 miles, at roundabout, take first exit (A323) into Wellington Avenue. In 0.8 miles, at roundabout, take second exit into High Street for the Recreation Ground (on left).

Facts and Figures

Home fixtures in capitals.
Wigan scores first.

Player scoring in bold.
† Player substituted.

² Figure indicates no. of goals scored by player.
^{*} In result column indicates opponents own goal.

DATE	FIXTURE	F	A	ATT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Aug 11	Stockport FLC1	1	2	6,004	R Ward	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton†	Brownbill	Purdie	Urquhart
Aug 15	STOCKPORT FLC1	0	0	7,581	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Purdie†	Davids
Aug 18	Darlington	2	2	7,063	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan†	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore†	Purdie	Brownbill
Aug 22	HUDDERSFIELD	1	2	6,922	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton†	Moore†	Purdie	N Ward
Aug 25	Stockport County	2	1	3,837	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore†	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore†	Purdie	Urquhart
Sep 1	PORTSMOUTH	2	1	8,198	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore†	Purdie	Brownbill†
Sep 8	Bournemouth	2	1	4,390	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	Hart	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Purdie	Urquhart†
Sep 15	YORK CITY	2	6	5,990	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan†	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Purdie	Urquhart†
Sep 19	HARTLEPOOL	2	1	4,877	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright†	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton	Urquhart
Sep 22	Hereford United	1	2	3,891	Shyne	Gore	Hinnigan†	Purdie	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Moore†	Houghton	Urquhart
Sep 29	BRADFORD CITY	4	1	8,009	Shyne	Gore†	Hinnigan†	Urquhart	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton	Crompton
Oct 6	TORQUAY UNITED	3	3	6,541	Shyne	Gore	Hinnigan	Urquhart	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton	Methven
Oct 9	Huddersfield Town	4	3	7,871	Shyne	Gore	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Purdie	Urquhart
Oct 13	Doncaster Rovers	1	1	4,169	Brown	Macdonald	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton†	Moore	Urquhart	A Quinn
Oct 20	LINCOLN CITY	2	1	5,454	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A Quinn†	Urquhart	Buckley
Oct 24	ROCHDALE	1	1	5,036	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven†	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Buckley	A Quinn	Urquhart	Smart
Oct 27	Newport County	2	3	4,910	Brown	Fretwell†	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A Quinn†	Urquhart	Buckley
Nov 3	DARLINGTON	1	1	5,307	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton†	A Quinn†	Urquhart	Brownbill
Nov 6	Rochdale	2	3	2,938	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton†	A Quinn†	Urquhart†	Moore
Nov 17	SCUNTHORPE	4	1	4,678	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan†	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton†	A Quinn	Urquhart	Moore
Nov 24	Blackpool F A C 1	1	1	11,277	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven†	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A Quinn	Urquhart	Moore
Nov 28	BLACKPOOL FAC 1 R	1	1	11,989	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A Quinn	Urquhart	Moore
Dec 1	NORTHAMPTON	0	0	6,158	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A Quinn	Urquhart	Moore†
Dec 8	Walsall	1	1	5,411	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A Quinn	Urquhart	Moore
Dec 21	CREWE	2	3	8,116	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore†	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A Quinn	Urquhart	Moore
Dec 26	Peterborough	2	1	3,312	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore†	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Moore	A Quinn†	Urquhart	Crompton
Dec 29	STOCKPORT	3	1	6,847	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Moore	A Quinn	Urquhart	Brownbill
Jan 5	Northwich V FAC2	2	2	5,249	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan†	Gore†	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A Quinn	Urquhart	Brownbill
Jan 7	NORTHWICH V FAC2 R	1	1	11,298	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan†	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A Quinn	Urquhart	Houghton†
Jan 12	Portsmouth	1	1	75,625	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A Quinn	Urquhart	A Quinn
Jan 14	Chelsea FAC3	1	1	2,228	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A Quinn	Urquhart	A Quinn
Jan 26	Everton FAC4	0	3	51,863	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan†	Wright	Houghton†	Brownbill	Urquhart	A Quinn
Feb 2	York City	2	1	2,430	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright†	Houghton†	Brownbill	Urquhart	A Quinn
Feb 6	BOURNEMOUTH	2	1	5,904	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Brownbill	Urquhart	A Quinn
Feb 9	HEREFORD UNITED	1	1	6,481	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Brownbill	Urquhart	Moore
Feb 16	Bradford City	1	2	6,127	Brown	Fretwell	Marriot	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Urquhart	Brownbill
Feb 29	Lincoln City	1	4	1,644	Brown	Macdonald	Whittle	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton†	A Quinn	Urquhart	McMullan
Mar 5	ALDERSHOT	2	1	5,018	Brown	Fretwell	Whittle	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A Quinn	Urquhart	Brownbill
Mar 8	NEWPORT COUNTY	1	1	6,128	Brown	Fretwell	Whittle	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A Quinn	Urquhart	Moore
Mar 10	Tranmere Rovers	1	1	3,369	Brown	Fretwell	Whittle	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Urquhart	McMullan
Mar 14	Torquay United	2	2	2,824	Brown	Fretwell	Whittle	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Urquhart	Moore
Mar 19	Hallifax Town	0	0	1,406	Brown	Fretwell	Whittle	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Shearer	Urquhart	Moore
Mar 22	TRANMERE	0	0	5,828	Brown	Fretwell	Whittle	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Shearer	Urquhart	Moore
Mar 26	PORT VALE	3	1	4,854	Brown	Fretwell	Whittle	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Shearer†	Urquhart	Moore
Mar 29	Scunthorpe United	3	1	2,140	Brown	Fretwell	Whittle	Gore†	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Shearer†	Urquhart	Moore
Apr 4	Crewe Alexandra	1	2	5,532	Brown	Fretwell	Whittle	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	A Quinn	Urquhart	Moore
Apr 5	PETERBOROUGH	1	2	6,094	Brown	Fretwell	Whittle	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Shearer	Urquhart	Brownbill
Apr 7	Port Vale	1	1	3,612	Brown	Fretwell	Whittle	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Shearer	Urquhart	Moore
Apr 12	HALLIFAX TOWN	3	1	4,076	Brown	Fretwell	Whittle	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton†	M Quinn	Urquhart	Moore
Apr 15	Hartlepool United	1	1	1,840	Brown	Fretwell	Whittle	Gore†	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Shearer	Urquhart	M Quinn
Apr 19	Northampton Town	1	1	2,378	Brown	Fretwell	Whittle	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Shearer	Urquhart	McMullan
Apr 26	WALSALL															
Apr 30	DONCASTER RVRS															
May 3	Aldershot															

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Fourth Division Focus

by Chris Gill



IN TIMES when some football clubs will unload their manager at the first sign of a crisis, it is nice to see that one club has taken a more positive approach. Fourth Division strugglers Darlington have rewarded ten years hard work from current manager Billy Elliott by offering him a new three-year contract. The amazing thing is that Darlington need to take maximum points from their last two games to avoid the prospect of applying for re-election for the second year running.

Still on a rewarding note, and Newport County's grand late surge into the promotion stakes has taken them into the record books. Their 1 - 0 win they gained at Rochdale recently equalled Spurs' record of ten successive victories set twenty years ago. The very next match Newport County eclipsed that record, by chalking up another win.

Billy Kellock, a sensation in attack, since he moved into the Football League from Kettering Town at the start of the season, spoiled his ever-present record when he missed Peterborough United's away game at Scunthorpe United through suspension.

There was bad news also for Halifax Town's thirty years old utility player Tony Geidmintis, when he was advised to quit the game on medical advice. Still at 'The Shay', it is worth noting that John Smith's goal against Wigan Athletic two weeks ago was the club's 3,000th in League Football.

Hartlepool United have, in recent times, had three players in plaster, including teenage striker Keith Houchen. To make matters worse they had already agreed to sell leading scorer Bob Newton to the Boston Teamen.

With Eric McManus returning to Stoke City,

Lincoln City gave a first team debut to nineteen years old Kevin Fox for their home game with Darlington. Lincoln City were also hoping to make a £15,000 capture from non-league Boston Utd. The player under consideration, and expected to join the Imps shortly, is defender Steve Thompson.

To end on a controversial note, no less than eight players were booked in the recent Hereford United—Doncaster Rovers game. Seven were from Hereford whose defensive wall flatly refused to move the full ten yards for a free kick!!

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR AS AT THURSDAY, 24th APRIL, 1980.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Walsall	44	28	18	3	73	40	64
Huddersfield Town	44	25	12	7	95	46	62
Bradford City	44	23	12	9	76	49	58
Newport County	43	25	7	11	78	46	57
Portsmouth	44	22	12	10	85	49	56
Peterborough United	44	20	10	14	57	43	50
Wigan Athletic	43	19	12	12	70	61	50
Lincoln City	44	16	17	11	55	40	49
Torquay United	43	15	16	12	63	57	46
Northampton Town	44	16	12	16	41	61	44
Aldershot	43	16	11	16	61	49	43
Bournemouth	44	12	18	14	51	50	42
Doncaster Rovers	43	14	13	16	60	60	41
Tranmere Rovers	43	14	12	17	49	52	40
Scunthorpe United	44	13	14	17	54	74	40
Hartlepool United	44	14	10	20	58	61	38
York City	44	14	10	20	64	79	38
Halifax Town	43	13	12	18	42	61	38
Stockport County	44	13	12	19	44	70	38
Hereford United	43	10	13	20	35	50	33
Darlington	44	8	17	19	48	72	33
Port Vale	44	10	12	22	52	70	32
Crewe Alexandra	44	9	13	22	32	68	31
Rochdale	42	5	13	24	29	74	23

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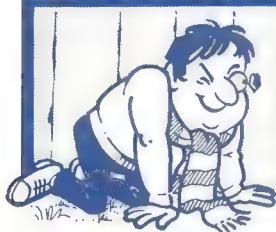
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Inside Information

by I. Spy

WE HAVE had a request from Martyn Wright of 42, Willow Crescent West, Willowbank, Near Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB9 4AT, for pen friends. Martyn would like to write to any Wigan Athletic fans who can keep him in touch with club activities and news — on and off the field. Our friend from the South of England hopes to visit us next year, but meanwhile he is keen to build up some background knowledge. Please contact Martyn at his home address — he will be pleased to reply.

For the benefit of our supporters, we are pleased to report that, at long last, the Commercial Department, as distinct from the Football Club, has now been allocated sole use of the office accommodation sited between the Supporters' Club and the Main Stand. In future, season ticket and match ticket purchases can be made at the new ticket office in front of the Main

Stand, and this sales' and general inquiry function will be handled by Company Secretary Eric Jones and Mrs. Merle Ward.

The fund-raising organisation, shop and programme activities, advertising and sponsorship will be handled by Commercial Manager, Jack Sudworth, Mrs. Helen Turner and Lottery Promoter, Bill Brown, from the Commercial Department offices.

The telephone number for the Football Club and all general inquiries remains as Wigan 44433, while, as previously, the telephone number for the Commercial Department is Wigan 43067.

Everyone at the Football Club was sorry to hear that Chris Gill, the popular local reporter for the Evening Post and Chronicle, had sustained a broken ankle during a friendly kick-about game with local youngsters near his home. All our best wishes, Chris, for a speedy return to the action.

A WARM welcome to all our supporters, club members and also to our visitors from Walsall.

As mentioned in our last home programme, we attended the meeting of the Northern Section of the Supporters Clubs' Federation and raised the question of the validity of our members' club cards.

It was apparent that this situation has been the source of considerable concern and we were given an assurance that the matter will be included in the agenda at the Annual General Meeting during the close season.

However, we are awaiting a comprehensive list of clubs who are in the Federation and propose that from the start of the season 1980/81 we will make contact in advance with the away club concerned, and a notice on the supporters club notice board, and, if time allows, a note in our programme notes, will inform our supporters as to the arrangements made on their behalf.

With the end of the season now in sight, I realise that this will be the last issue of our Supporters' Club notes for the current season, but I wish to remind you that we in the club don't have a "close-season" and I am sure there is always something in the Club programme that would interest you.

On Wednesday, May 7th at 8.00 p.m., we have on stage, the "Scott Brennan Orchestra", one of the ever popular big bands, with the nostalgic music of Glen Miller, Tommy Dorsey etc. etc.

Please make a note of that date, it will be a great night's entertainment.

On Wednesday, May 14th, one for the ladies, a Fashion Show by "Zosia" of Park Road. The last time we staged a show of this kind, it was a complete success. On Wednesday, May 21st, "An end of season Celebration Night" — with the complete cast of an "Olde Tyme Music Hall" on stage. Our Manager, Ian McNeill and his players will also be with us on that night — Tickets (strictly

Supporters Club News



limited) will be on sale soon.

Meanwhile, our bowls and darts and dominoes sections are going fine and hopefully our cricket lads will soon be in action.

In closing, on behalf of the Staff and Committee at the Club, may I wish all our members, whatever their plans are for the summer break, the very best of luck. Thank you for your support and roll on the new season in August.

Sincerely,

Peter Woods.



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A last word from the chairman . . .

I AM particularly pleased to welcome the Chairman, directors, staff and supporters of the Walsall Football Club to Springfield Park today. On behalf of Wigan Athletic, I wish to congratulate "The Saddlers" on their success in gaining promotion to the Third Division — a deserved reward for consistency in the league programme. To have been defeated on just three occasions over forty-four testing fixtures tells its own story, and with three points required from their last two games to ensure that the final accolade of "champions" is bestowed upon their efforts, the Walsall players can be expected to approach today's game in the thoroughly professional manner the Fourth Division has come to expect of the club. Our own players make a habit of rising to the big occasion, so today's game may turn out to be a minor classic. Whatever the outcome, we wish our visitors a happy return to the Third Division and every success in the future.



Although we have not been able to gain promotion, in this our second season as members of the Football League, I am sure we can look back on the 1979-1980 season as one of the best in our club's lifetime. After a shaky beginning, we hit a patch when everything went so very, very well — a long run of success in the league fixtures and the magnificent F.A. Cup run allowing us to make this season yet another profitable venture.

To my colleagues on the Board of Directors, to our very able manager and his players, to our staff and supporters alike, and to anyone who has in any way contributed to the club's well-being, I offer my sincere thanks for a job well done. During my recent tour of duty as Chairman of the Wigan Athletic Football Club I have experienced so many happy moments. Let us hope that the good start we have made to our Football League life can be continued in Season 1980-1981, when our aim must be to give our "ancient and loyal" townsfolk what they desire — Third Division Football.

Enjoy today's game.
Sincerely,
A. O. Horrocks.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A. O. Horrocks', written over a horizontal line.

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Teams

Wigan Athletic		Walsall	
Royal Blue & White Stripes		Red with White Trim	
John Brown	1	Ron Green	
Dave Fretwell	2	Tony Macken	
Maurice Whittle	3	Kenny Mower	
Tommy Gore	4	Steve Waddington	
Colin Methven	5	Dave Serella	
Neil Davids	6	Garry Williams	
Mike Quinn	7	Don Penn	
Jeff Wright	8	Ian Paul	
Peter Houghton	9	Roy McDonough	
David Shearer	10	Alan Buckley	
George Urquhart	11	Brian Caswell	
Dave McMullan	12	Mark Rees	

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Referee:
Mr. T. Farley
(Newton Aycliffe,
Co. Durham)

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Leagues to the Football
League full list. Has
officiated in important F.A.,
European F.A. and Inter-
national games.

Married, with two sons, he is
an Accountancy Assistant
and very keen on playing
squash. Is Secretary of the
Assoc. of Football League
Referees and Linesmen
(North-East Section), also of
the Bishop Auckland
Referees' Association.
Sports' Editor of Aycliffe
Community Radio.

Linesmen:
Red Flag
Mr. G. Bailey
(Stockport)
Yellow Flag
Mr. J. A. Biggar
(Manchester)

Here next...

Wednesday, 30th April, 1980. Kick-off 7.30 p.m.
WIGAN ATHLETIC v DONCASTER ROVERS
Football League Division Four